

## **20 Mile by John Ginsburg (2016)**

*20 Mile* is a novel about individual identity and group identity; how their superposition influences the perceptions and actions of people in their everyday lives.

In the winter of 2016 in Winnipeg, a young aboriginal woman is in the graduating year of a Bachelor of Education program. She intends to teach at the high school in her home community, Crow's Head First Nation. Her program of studies intersects with the world of one of her professors, a middle-aged Jewish man who takes a strong personal interest in her circumstances. As she deals with the challenges of her personal life and academic life, her professor confronts his own lifetime of indifference and inaction towards aboriginal issues. When an opportunity arises to help his student, he resolves to act. This simple intention to help has unexpected consequences. Set in an academic world marked by political correctness, clashing egos and petty conflicts, the novel examines the factors which motivate that decision; individual and societal, within academia and outside it.